

SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MISSOURI,

ON THE

*Subject of slavery in the Territories, District of Columbia, and States.*

DECEMBER 31, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS on the subject of slavery.

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, 1st.* That the federal constitution was the result of a compromise between the conflicting interests of the States which formed it; and in no part of that instrument is to be found any delegation of power to Congress to legislate on the subject of slavery, excepting some special provisions having in view the prospective abolition of the African slave-trade, and for the recovery of fugitive slaves. Any attempt, therefore, on the part of Congress to legislate on the subject so as to affect the institution of slavery in the States, in the District of Columbia, or in the Territories, is, to say the least, a violation of the principle upon which that instrument was founded.

2d. That the Territories acquired by the blood and treasure of the whole nation ought to be governed for the common benefit of the people of all the States, and any organization of the Territorial governments excluding the citizens of any part of the Union from removing to such Territories with their property would be an exercise of power by Congress inconsistent with the spirit upon which our federal compact was based, insulting to the sovereignty and dignity of the States thus affected, calculated to alienate one portion of the Union from another, and tending ultimately to disunion.

3d. That this General Assembly regard the conduct of the northern States on the subject of slavery as releasing the slave-holding States from all further adherence to the basis of compromise fixed on by the act of Congress of the 6th of March, 1820, even if such act ever did impose any obligation upon the slave-holding States, and authorizes them to insist upon their rights under the constitution; but for the sake of harmony, and for the preservation of our federal Union, they will still sanction the application of the principles of the "Missouri compromise" to the recent

territorial acquisitions, if by such concession future aggressions upon the equal rights of the States may be arrested, and the spirit of anti-slavery fanaticism be extinguished.

4th. The right to prohibit slavery in any Territory belongs exclusively to the people thereof, and can only be exercised by them in forming their constitution for a State government, or in their sovereign capacity as an independent State.

5th. That in the event of the passage of any act of Congress conflicting with the principles herein expressed, Missouri will be found in hearty co-operation with the slave-holding States in such measures as may be deemed necessary for our mutual protection against the encroachments of northern fanaticism.

6th. That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be requested, to act in conformity to the foregoing resolutions.

*Resolved by the House of Representatives, (the Senate concurring therein,)* That the secretary of state be required to transmit a copy of the resolutions passed at this session of the General Assembly on the subject of slavery to the executive of each of the States of the Union, with the request that the same be laid before their respective legislatures, and also a copy to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

Approved March 10, 1849.